

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated DNA encoding a hek-L protein capable of binding hek, wherein said DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 83-796, 83-745, 140-796, and 140-745 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- ~~2. An isolated DNA according to claim 1, wherein said DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 83-796, 83-745, 140-796, and 140-745 of SEQ ID NO:1.~~
3. An isolated DNA encoding a hek-L protein capable of binding hek, wherein said DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 28-630, 28-573, 94-630, and 94-573 of SEQ ID NO:3.
- ~~4. An isolated DNA according to claim 3, wherein said DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 28-630, 28-573, 94-630 and 94-573 of SEQ ID NO:3.~~
5. An isolated DNA encoding a human hek-L protein capable of binding hek, wherein said hek-L comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-202 and 1-219 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 1-160 and 1-179 of SEQ ID NO:4.
- ~~6. An isolated DNA according to claim 5, wherein said hek-L comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-202 and 1-219 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 1-160 and 1-179 of SEQ ID NO:4.~~
- Sub A2 ~~7. An isolated DNA encoding a fusion protein comprising a hek-L and an Fc polypeptide, wherein said hek-L comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 1-160 of SEQ ID NO:4.~~
8. An expression vector comprising a DNA according to claim 1.

SEQ ID NO: 2

9. An expression vector comprising a DNA according to claim 3.

10. An expression vector comprising a DNA according to claim 5.

11. An expression vector comprising a DNA according to claim 7.

12. A process for preparing a hek-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 8 under conditions promoting expression of hek-L, and recovering the hek-L polypeptide from the culture.

13. A process for preparing a hek-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 9 under conditions promoting expression of hek-L and recovering the hek-L polypeptide from the culture.

14. A process for preparing a hek-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 10 under conditions promoting expression of hek-L, and recovering the hek-L polypeptide from the culture.

Sub A3  
15. A process for preparing a hek-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 11 under conditions promoting expression of hek-L, and recovering the hek-L polypeptide from the culture.

16. A purified mature human hek-L protein capable of binding hek, wherein said hek-L protein is characterized by the N-terminal amino acid sequence Leu-Leu-Ala-Gln-Gly-Pro-Gly-Gly-Ala-Leu-Gly-Asn.

17. A purified hek-L according to claim 16, wherein said hek-L comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-202 and 1-219 of SEQ ID NO:2.

18. A purified mature human hek-L protein capable of binding hek, wherein said hek-L protein is characterized by the N-terminal amino acid sequence Gly-Ser-Ser-Leu-Arg-His-Val-Val-Tyr-Trp-Asn-Ser.

